

Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI)
Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
Blind Vendors Committee (BVC) Meeting Minutes
1901 N. DuPont Highway, Biggs Building
New Castle, DE 19720
November 21, 2019
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Attendees: Wayne Marsh, Chairman; Rob Schmidlkofer, BEP Program Director; Anthony Paolini, Committee Member; Gary Pizzolo, Committee Member; Mark Ridenour, Division for the Visually Impaired; Thomas Newcomb, Committee Member; Jill Morrison, Division for the Visually Impaired; Guest, Jessie Nolden of the University of Delaware; Guest , Lauren Lenor, of the University of Delaware; Romy Mikhail, Division for the Visually Impaired; Debra Mills-Joe, Division for the Visually Impaired.

Wayne Marsh called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Approval of previous meeting minutes: Wayne Marsh made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes. Gary Pizzolo seconded. The motion carried.

Director's Report: No Director's report available.

BEP Operations-Upward Mobility: A training on the new vending machines is scheduled for the middle of January for BEP Operators. The Randolph Sheppard Administration suggested that several companies be involved with a variety of new machines.

On February 10, 2020, a trip to Washington, DC is scheduled to discuss the new laws passed, how it affects the visually impaired Blind operators and the program overall with our state Congressmen. Any Operator interested in this event will need to contact Wayne Marsh by December 6, 2019 and will need to complete a travel request.

Marketing & Strategic Plan: In a discussion of the Operator Agreement, the Blind Vendors stated that they prefer to be addressed as Blind Vendors rather than Managers. Rob Schmidlkofer will draw up the form for the name change. Rob Schmidlkofer would like to have any additional comments by December 6, 2019. Each new contract will show the change. Each vendor will sign the new contract in early January. Proposed revision of State Law 9606 is suggested to include any item accepting payment be covered under the law for any building used for government purposes.

Inventory Update: All inventory has been completed except for of the Carvel Building and the DHSS campus cafeteria.

Public comment(s): No public comments.

Adjournment: Wayne Marsh made motion to adjourn at 10:35 AM. Anthony Paolini seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Debra Mills-Joe